

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
Committee on Equal Opportunities  
February 20, 2007**

**Southern Regional Education Board  
Compact for Diversity: Doctoral Scholars Program**

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program is a cooperative interstate venture that seeks to support and encourage minority students to pursue doctoral degrees. The SREB, the New England Board of Higher Education, and the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education established the program in 1994 as part of the Compact for Faculty Diversity, a national initiative funded by the Pew Charitable Trust and the Ford Foundation. The program seeks to increase the number of minority faculty members employed as college faculty and executives by increasing the available pool of minority candidates. The SREB program is a part of a national effort; similar programs exist in the northeast and the west.

**Status of Kentucky Scholars**

- The program has served 72 scholars as of December 2006, produced 34 graduates, and has 30 students currently matriculating.
- There are 65 African Americans, 2 Hispanic Americans, 4 American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and 1 scholar identified as other. 43 females and 29 males are served by the program.
- Fields of study are science & technology 20 percent; business & management, 4 percent; health professions, 2 percent; mathematics, 4 percent; social & behavioral sciences, 30 percent; humanities, 30 percent; education, 4 percent; and engineering, 6 percent.
- The University of Kentucky has served 46 scholars, The University of Louisville 25 scholars, and 1 scholar has been served by a non-Kentucky institution.
- Time to degree from program entrance averaged 1.7 years for scholars entering the program to complete the dissertation and 3.8 years for doctoral scholars (students having to complete the entire Ph. D. program including the dissertation).
- Of the 34 graduates, 30 are currently employed, 80 percent in education (all in postsecondary education).
- Kentucky postsecondary education employs 11 SREB graduates (Council on Postsecondary Education 1, Eastern Kentucky University 1, Kentucky State University 1, Morehead State University 2, University of Louisville 4, University of Kentucky 1, and Berea College 1).

**Status of General Program**

- As of December 2006, the program has served 715 scholars, produced 336

graduates, with 292 students currently matriculating.

- There are 612 African Americans, 23 Asian Americans, 50 Hispanic Americans, 16 American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and 14 scholars identified as other. 467 females and 248 males are served by the program. The average age at entry is 30 years.
- Areas of concentration are science & technology, 23 percent; business & management, 10 percent; health professions, 7 percent; mathematics, 5 percent; social & behavioral sciences, 21 percent; humanities, 20 percent; education, 6 percent; and engineering, 8 percent.
- Time to degree from program entrance averaged 1.7 years for dissertation scholars and 3.8 years for doctoral scholars.
- Of the 336 graduates, 312 are currently employed, 78 percent are in education, and 76 percent are in postsecondary education.
- 56 percent are teaching, 11 percent are in academic administration, 17 percent have a postdoctoral appointment at a Research I Institution, and 16 percent are employed in nonacademic areas.
- 71 percent of the graduates are employed within states that have participated in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program.

The Council on Postsecondary Education, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville jointly implement the program in Kentucky. An ethnic minority student who is a U.S. citizen (Native American, Hispanic, Asian American, or African American), holds or will receive a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, and has been accepted into a Ph.D. program at UK or UofL is eligible to apply for Kentucky's program. The specific areas of concentration supported by the program are science, mathematics, education (math or science), and engineering. The program has proven to be an unqualified success.

Staff preparation by Sherron Jackson and Rana Johnson